

THE HONORABLE BARBARA J. ROTHSTEIN

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
COUNTY, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

SCOTT TURNER in his official capacity
as Secretary of the U.S. Department of
Housing and Urban Development, et al.,

Defendants.

No. 2:25-cv-00814-BJR

DECLARATION OF BONNIE
TUFTS

I, BONNIE TUFTS declare as follows:

1. I am the Program Manager for the Kitsap County Block Grant Program housed within the Department of Human Services. I am responsible for the administration of Kitsap County's annual allocations of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funding. I have worked in the Block Grant Program for 29 years, serving in my current position for the last 18 years.

2. Kitsap County, together with the cities of Poulsbo, Port Orchard and Bainbridge Island, qualifies as an Urban County for CDBG funding. Kitsap County is the entitlement jurisdiction, receiving the direct allocation from HUD, and has interlocal agreements with each of the cities.

3. Kitsap County (including the cities of Poulsbo, Port Orchard, and Bainbridge

1 Island) and the City of Bremerton are a HOME Consortium under the HOME Program. Kitsap
2 County is the Participating Jurisdiction, receiving the direct allocation from HUD and has
3 interlocal agreements with each of the cities.

4 4. Kitsap County relies on CDBG and HOME funding for housing, community and
5 economic development and public service projects and programs that serve low and very-low
6 income residents.

7 5. Kitsap County has received CDBG funding since at least 1993 and HOME
8 funding since 1994. Kitsap County's annual allocation amounts are determined by formula once
9 the federal budget is finalized. Kitsap County has been notified by HUD of its 2025 allocations;
10 \$1,093,594 in CDBG funds and \$668,553.08 in HOME Consortium funds.

11 6. All local projects that receive funding must be tied to goals established in the 5-
12 year Consolidated Plans and identified in Annual Action Plans and must follow a Citizen
13 Participation Process.

14 7. Kitsap County 2025 CDBG funding was awarded to agencies following a
15 competitive application process in 2024, and will be used for food bank operations and child
16 care/afterschool programs, microenterprise business assistance, a new food bank facility,
17 rehabilitation and weatherization of homeowner housing and rehabilitation of rental housing.

18 8. Kitsap County 2025 HOME funding was awarded to agencies following a
19 competitive application process in 2024, and will be used for the acquisition of new affordable
20 rental units and for downpayment assistance to homebuyers.

21 9. To receive funding, Kitsap County must submit a 2025 Annual Action Plan to
22 HUD which includes all of the projects that will receive CDBG and HOME funding and SF-424
23 and SF-424B forms signed by the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners. The Annual
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1 Action Plan is the application for financial assistance and must be approved by HUD before
2 grant agreements are issued.

3 10. On June 17, 2025, Kitsap County was notified that the SF-424B was recently
4 modified and the new version of the form must be included with the Annual Action Plan
5 submission. A letter from General Deputy Assistant Secretary, Claudette Fernandez, addressed to
6 Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSDA) and National Community
7 Development Association (NCDA) addressing concerns around Plan Submissions and FY2025
8 grant agreements conformity to executive orders and policies was also included.
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10 11. It is unclear how the new conditions stated in the letter, including the SAVE
11 (Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements) system, will be implemented and how they will
12 impact subrecipients that receive funding from Kitsap County.
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14 12. If Kitsap County refuses the new grant conditions and CDBG and HOME funding
15 is lost, there would be a significant impact to the county to meet affordable housing and suitable
16 living environment needs and to the agencies depending on these funds to provide housing and
17 services to low and very-low income households in the community.

18 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
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20 EXECUTED this 7th day of July, 2025.

21 *Bonnie Tufts*

22 BONNIE TUFTS

23 Program Manager, Kitsap County Block Grant Program
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on July 14, 2025, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing document on the following parties by the method(s) indicated below:

Brian C. Kipnis Annalisa L. Cravens Sarah L. Bishop Rebecca S. Cohen <i>Assistant United States Attorneys</i> Office of the United States Attorney 700 Stewart Street, Suite 5220 Seattle, WA 98101-1271 brian.kipnis@usdoj.gov annalisa.cravens@usdoj.gov sarah.bishop@usdoj.gov rebecca.cohen@usdoj.gov <i>Attorneys for Defendants</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CM/ECF E-service <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail / Return Receipt Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Hand delivery / Personal service
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I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States and the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED this 14th day of July, 2025.

/s/ Gabriela DeGregorio

Gabriela DeGregorio
 Litigation Assistant
 Pacifica Law Group LLP